

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. All Claims are under examination. No claim is withdrawn.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The rejections in paragraphs 1 and 2 on page 2 of the last Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is traversed but is believed to have been overcome by the present amendments.

Double Patenting Issues

In connection with copending Application No. 10/372,893, the claims thereof have been recently amended. It is therefore believed that the obviousness-type double patenting rejections are being overcome. The importance of the aluminum hydroxide limitation present in all of the pending claims is discussed further in the following remarks.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over “admitted prior art” in view of Takuman et al. (EP 1225211 A2). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

EP 1,225,211 A2 (Takuman), which corresponds to US 2002/0129898 and US Patent 6,811,650, discloses a silicone rubber adhesive composition comprising the following essential components:

- A. 100 parts by weight of an organopolysiloxane having an average of two or more alkenyl groups per molecule;
- B. an organopolysiloxane having an average of two or more silicon bonded hydrogen atoms in each molecule, in an amount such that the molar ratio of silicon bonded hydrogen atoms in component B to alkenyl groups in component A is from 0.01 to 20;

- C. from 5 to 200 parts by weight of a calcium carbonate powder selected from the group of untreated calcium carbonate, calcium carbonate treated with an organic acid and calcium carbonate treated with an ester of an organic acid, said calcium carbonate powder having a BET specific surface area of from 5 to 50 m²/g; and
- D. a platinum-based catalyst, in an amount sufficient to effect curing of the composition.

With respect to the necessity of calcium carbonate, Takuman discloses that:

[0015] The content of component C in the adhesive of the present invention is from 5 to 200 parts by weight, and preferably from 10 to 100 parts by weight, per 100 parts by weight of component A. This is because the adhesion of the adhesive of the present invention to silicone rubber tends to decrease if the content of component C is below the aforementioned range, and a uniform adhesive is difficult to prepare if the content exceeds the aforementioned range.

Thus, calcium carbonate is an essential component and must be present in an amount of at least 5 parts by weight.

Takuman also discloses that:

[0020] The following optional components **may also be added to** the adhesive of the present invention: fumed titanium oxide, carbon black, diatomaceous earth, iron oxide, aluminium oxide, aluminosilicates, calcium carbonate, zinc oxide, aluminium hydroxide, silver, nickel, and other inorganic fillers, as well as fillers obtained by treating the surfaces of these fillers with the aforementioned organosilicone compounds.

Therefore, **aluminum hydroxide powder is not an alternative to calcium carbonate powder for an adhesive used to bond silicone rubber,** but, **the composition of Takuman always contains calcium carbonate.** Accordingly, even if aluminium hydroxide is blended, the composition necessarily contains calcium carbonate in an amount equal to as much as 5 to 200 parts by weight in combination. Calcium carbonate is not a substitute for aluminum hydroxide and *vice versa*.

According to the present invention, the use of aluminum hydroxide can insure an improved bond between the peripheral portions of the fabric pieces even if without the use of calcium carbonate, as is proved by Examples of the present specification.

It is not expected from Takuman that aluminium hydroxide can impart a high bond without calcium carbonate. As mentioned above, Takuman does not teach that aluminum is a substitute for calcium carbonate. Moreover, Takuman fails to disclose or teach a process of preparing an air bag, said process comprising laying a pair of base fabric pieces impregnated and/or impregnated or coated with silicone rubber one on the other, with the coated surfaces of the pieces inside, applying as a sealer an addition reaction curing type silicone rubber composition to peripheral portions of the base fabric pieces to be jointed, and joining the peripheral portions of the pieces together to form a bag.

Therefore, even if these references are considered in combination, there is no teaching or suggestion of the present invention.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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